My dear Maria Rome 1st July 1873

You'll be looking for a scribble from me and I am glad to be able to send you a very account of my doings for I am actually painting & have done a picture & almost another with 5 figures, so that I'm "all egog" & think now that I have really got up my steam –

The next good thing will be to sell a picture & even this seems to me possible

I am so pleased when I think of it, that that good Arthur thought of you & agreed to settle on you the £40 a year, for not only that my pension is scanty & just enough to make both ends meet, yet a greater care worried me that if I were to die my pension would finish & you would have been left penniless – this you saw & we agreed without speaking of it but as you think me always lucky, so in this I have been really so

Walter writes me that the great preacher Rev^d Stopford Brooke preached a sermon about me on the 8th June on the subject

in the church in York St. St James's Sq^re
of my Friendship for Keats & I hope to get
a copy of it for I am grateful (not so much
personally) as it shows that Friendship still
holds society together & that mine is noticed
after 1/2 a century !!! You'll be well content
that poor old Joe should get such a compliment
as things go for I have been at times most
cruelly snubbed, particularly in my painting
but this all turns on fashion, & I am out of
fashion

We are in real Summer 76 F. in my room, but
I dont feel the heat when I am painting

Earthquakes in the north of Italy have caused
many & great misery - the Cholera is but trifling
- On the 15th inst I hope to go to Tottenham with my
bath & my good Ser.t get I am so well recovered
that I do not actually need the mountain air but my
10 baths will keep me up

July 5, My painting gives me delight as of old.

6th Yours of the 2d has just come - I am
grieved to find you suffering & without warm
weather - but soon you must have Summers

July 8th 73

My dear Tom

At last I hope you have got your Summer & that you have tried many a walk without breaking down for like me you depend on the warmth & how I wish I could send you a little of mine for here for here we've got the great heat in excess so that I cannot go out in the day time 'Tis now 8 O'C & while I sit painting without coat or Waistcoat I'm as if were in a bath; this is too much of a good thing — In the early morn at 6 when I get to take a scrubbing all over with horse brush & hot water & unless I do this I'm not worth a straw, but this day week I go to the mountains of Tolfa where I can sit in a draught, but here in Rome 'tis dangerous & may cause a fever, but what can one do in such heat? yet there is a pleasure in it at dinner particularly, for the wine is cooled & the water too — & the fruit exquisite — as I am up so early I find good appetite at 2 for dinner & after I lie down on the sofa & sleep ½ an hour — but the flies annoy me much altho I study to get rid of them by putting my room in darkness